

(b) Under the 'Suvidha' scheme all the computerised branches of the nationalised banks in 133 towns and cities covered by one by six schemes, have been authorised to received direct tax payments, with effect from 1st August, 2000. Simultaneously, 'Helpline - Income tax' has started functioning in Delhi as a focal point for bringing to the Department's notice urgent and serious problem of individual and corporate tax payers for immediate action. This scheme is working under the supervision of an officer of the level of Commissioner of Income tax. 'Helpline-Income Tax' will be extended to other stations in due course. These schemes are part of Government's efforts to make tax administration more tax-payee friendly.

(c) These schemes are directed towards providing more facilities to the tax payers, which will ultimately result in better tax compliance and increased revenue.

Action on the 11th Finance Commission Report

*239. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "State annual plans in Limbo" which appeared in Pioneer dated the 19th July, 2000;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to keep the 11th Finance Commission Report in abeyance despite CMs of various States facing financial crunch; and

(c) if so, the reasons why Government do not want to take any action on the 11th Finance Commission Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The said news-item highlights postponement of the annual plan discussions of the States by the Planning Commission pending 11th Finance Commission's Final Report.

The 11th Finance Commission has since submitted its final report. This report alongwith the Explanatory Memorandum as to the action taken note has been tabled in the Parliament of 27th July, 2000 after receiving the approval of the Cabinet. The Planning Commission has started annual plan discussions with the remaining States for 2000-2001 from 4th August, 2000.

(c) Does not arise.